

Remarks/Arguments

With the above amendments Claims 1-18 and 21 remain pending in the application.

Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 21 to recite that the acid-blocking material is formic acid, acetic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid, gluconic acid, or N-(2-hydroxyethyl)imino-diacetic acid. Support for this amendment can be found in original Claim 20 and the specification at page 11/12-15. Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 1-9, 16-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103a as being unpatentable over Eisen in view of Savoca. The Examiner has allowed Claim 20 over this combination of references. Independent Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-18 and 21 are now patentable and request that the Examiner reconsider this 103a rejection and withdraw it.

Believing the application is now in condition for allowance, Applicants solicit an action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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